

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES AND CELEBRATES HENRIETTA BACKER FOR HER SERVICE TO THE PRINCETON COMMUNITY

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Henrietta Backer, known as Heny to friends and neighbors, for her service to the Princeton community.

More than 20 years ago, Heny Backer came to Princeton to visit her daughter at the university. The town was fortunate that day: she was so impressed that she and her husband, Bernie, decided to relocate there. Heny has since made an indelible mark on the Princeton community. Highly principled, she is an inspiration to those around her and has earned our heartfelt appreciation.

Heny Backer has served in many capacities on a number of community organizations, and in each case she has done so with fairness and a civic-minded spirit.

Her unending energy marked her tenure as a commissioner of the Housing Authority for the Borough of Princeton, where she sought to make affordable housing available to all who seek it.

Heny's commitment to finding fair, decent, peaceful solutions to the world's problems has made her one of the indispensable volunteers for the Coalition of Peace Action. Her leadership resulted in the borough's formal expression of disappointment in our country's decision to take preemptive action against Iraq.

Through her efforts, the Princeton Community Democratic Organization (PCDO) was reinvigorated. Under her leadership, the political dialogue of the community was elevated in substance and integrity. Due to her tireless dedication to addressing the many challenges our community faces in a fair and respectful manner, she was elected to serve as both the president of the PCDO and chair of the Princeton Municipal Democratic Committee. She continues to serve on both organizations today.

Heny Backer has contributed significantly to the life of her community and to the positive nature of its political dialogue. For me, Heny has been a source of good advice and good ideas for which I am ever grateful. She has earned our heartfelt appreciation for her efforts. I ask my colleagues to join me in giving her this recognition.

CONGRATULATING THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association. Throughout its existence, the Association has worked to make the dream of independent homeownership for residents of Maryland and Washington, DC a reality.

Under the leadership of building industry pioneer Carl M. Freeman, the MNCBIA received its charter from the National Association of Homebuilders in 1954. And since its inception, the organization has remained true to its mission statement, which reads: "The Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) is dedicated to organizing, influencing and improving economic growth and legislative, regulatory, social and educational opportunities for all segments of the building industry and the community it serves."

The MNCBIA is truly demonstrative of the diversity of its trade: The Association is comprised of more than 730 companies representing the interests of more than 18,000 employees of the residential development and building industries. Throughout its existence, the MNCBIA has worked to create an entrepreneurial environment in our area that encourages innovation and competition.

The Association should be strongly commended for its role in the regional economy. In addition to representing the homebuilding industry in local communities, Members are engaged in single and multifamily building, land development, remodeling, rehab and renovation and general light construction. Associate members are companies and individuals who provide materials, products, financing and many other services, including subcontracting, to builders and developers.

Mr. Speaker, because of the hard work of its members, the MNCBIA has contributed to a vibrant building sector in our metropolitan area, and boosted demand for goods and services from the building products industries and other sectors such as construction; consulting engineering, architecture and real estate law.

Successful relationships between the homebuilding industry and residents of Maryland and Washington, DC, are essential for smart growth and mutual satisfaction with the development process. The MNCBIA strives to foster open communication and understanding between these two groups.

The Association has also taken great care to protect the integrity and craftsmanship of the region's home and building designs by establishing the Annual Custom Builder Awards of Excellence, which recognizes local custom

builders and remodelers for excellence in construction, architecture, and design.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the Maryland-National Capital Building Industry Association for its numerous contributions to communities in Maryland and Washington, DC during the past 50 years. Housing means more than just a roof over your head: It signifies that you can provide for your family independently. I look forward to working with the Association in the future in its efforts to build safe, affordable homes for the citizens of Maryland and Washington, DC—so that those families can claim their part of the American dream.

**HONORING RUBEN BURKS**

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of my hometown of Flint, MI, to honor a great man, Mr. Ruben Burks for his indefatigable service as past UAW Region 1C Secretary-Treasurer. On Thursday, February 19, 2004 the community will honor Mr. Ruben Burks during a special dinner to be held at the Mott Community College Prah Center ballroom, also located in my hometown of Flint, MI.

Ruben Burks was born August 23, 1933 in Louisiana. He relocated to Flint, MI in 1955, and gained employment with General Motors Corporation (GM) Fisher Body Plant 2 as an assembler. He also became a member of the UAW Local 598, during that same year. As a member of Local 598, Ruben held several leadership positions, such as shop committeeperson, alternate committeeperson, and executive board member. In 1970, former UAW President Walter Reuther appointed Ruben to the International Union staff in Region 1C. Region 1C serves UAW members of GM, independents, parts and supplier plants in 11 counties in south-central Michigan. In 1983 Ruben became the Assistance Director of Region 1C and remained in that position until 1989 when he was elected to the office of Regional Director, where he served a total of three terms. On June 24, 1998, Ruben was elected to the Union's second-highest office, Secretary-Treasurer of the UAW. Ruben maintained this position until retirement in 2002. During his tenure, Ruben was a strong leader in promoting economic development, he worked diligently to attract and keep good jobs in the Flint community. He was instrumental in the UAW-GM community health care initiative in Flint, which helped to improve the quality and accessibility of health care while at the same time making the health delivery system more cost efficient. Ruben has advocated over the years for the working family to ensure that their voices were heard among politicians and business leaders.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Ruben Burks is currently actively involved in a host of civic, charitable, and youth organizations within his community. In 1997 Mott Community College awarded Ruben with an honorary degree in Community Development in recognition and appreciation for his contributions to the Flint Community. Aside from being an outstanding leader and role model, Ruben Burks is also the devoted father of 7 children and grandfather of 10 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, this community, indeed this world, is better because of Ruben Burks. Ruben Burks has been a positive influence on me. I am a better Congressman, a better person because of the example and influence of Ruben Burks.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in honoring my constituent and dear friend Ruben Burks for his outstanding contributions to the Flint community and the State of Michigan.

#### HONORING TERESA FONTENETTE

#### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and fruitful career in California state government. Teresa Fontenette is set to retire from a remarkable career that has spanned five decades. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Teresa's, affectionately known as Terri to those who know and love her, illustrious career, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding citizen of Sacramento.

After completing high school with the inaugural graduating class of St. Francis School for Girls in Sacramento, Terri made her first foray into California state government by serving as a Junior Clerk Typist with the California State Personnel Board. Shortly thereafter, Terri became the Junior Stenographer with the Department of Motor Vehicles and General Services. In 1967, Terri was promoted to Stenographer II at the Department of Health Services.

In 1971, Terri joined the Department of Finance. Through hard work and dedication, Terri became the Secretary to the Personnel Office. During her tenure with the Department of Finance, Terri enjoyed great access to some of the most influential policy makers in California. Terri still fondly recalls sharing her peanuts and candy with several Governors of California during her time in the State Capitol.

Terri's desire to maximize her considerable talents led her to quit state service and enroll at Sacramento City College. Terri's leadership qualities were evident to those as Sacramento City College as she became the President Of the Black Student Union. Terri would eventually receive the prestigious President's Scholarship to attend California State University, Sacramento.

Terri would rejoin the Department of Finance part-time Student Assistant. After graduating with a degree in Social Work/Psychology in 1979, Terri was promoted Administrative Assistant II in 1981.

In the next four years, Terri's outstanding work continued to earn her a number of pro-

motions; as Terri went from being an Associate Governmental Program Analyst to the Assistant Public Information Officer for the Governor's Exempt Program.

In 1985, Terri was asked to be part of the start-up team for the California Lottery. Terri would begin her service to California State Lottery as the Staff Services Manager I and Minority Affairs/Contract Compliance Manager. In the next eighteen years, Terri would serve with great distinction as a valued member of the Senior Staff. Terri offered her considerable knowledge to the Marketing Division as she was the primary liaison to the advertising agency developing African-American consumer marketing strategies.

Terri's outstanding professional accomplishments have rightfully earned her a number of awards in recognition of her excellence. Terri was named the Corporate Individual of the Year by Black Business Listings & Black Expo in 1996. The year after, Terri was appointed to the Corporate Advisory Council by the Asian Business Association. In 2000, Terri was acknowledged by the California Department of General Services for her contributions in furthering small business and disabled veteran business participation in state contracting.

Mr. Speaker, as Terri's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate her great career; I am honored to pay tribute to a dedicated and successful public servant. Terri's career is a true testament to the value of public service. Although her career with the California state government may be over, her commitment to make a positive impact in the community, fortunate for us, is far from over. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Terri Fontenette continued success in all her future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING CRYSTAL DOMENECH

#### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize the achievements of Crystal Domenech, who was raised in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, in my Congressional District.

At 19, Crystal has done what many people only dream to achieve in a lifetime. Since the age of 13, she has been an active member of the United Puerto Rican Organization of Sunset Park (UPROSE)—the oldest Puerto Rican community-based organization in Brooklyn.

Since Sunset Park is a working class, immigrant waterfront neighborhood and the site of many industrial uses, UPROSE's mission of youth and community empowerment seeks to make Sunset Park a better, safer place to live for local residents.

It is young people like Crystal who are truly changing the direction of our communities. She is one of the founding members of UPROSE's Environmental Enforcers, a youth group that has taken on many issues relating to environmental justice.

Crystal's list of accomplishments is long. She has worked tirelessly with me and other elected officials in educating the public on the unfair siting of power plants and other polluting facilities in low-income communities.

Currently, she is working with UPROSE on its Urban Forestry Project and on a community design plan for a public open space greenway along the Sunset Park waterfront. She has caught the attention of politicians, community leaders and the media alike.

Given her energy and commitment, it was easy for me to nominate Crystal as one of just five New York City students to travel to Antarctica for a 14-day expedition with Students on Ice. By embarking on this life-altering journey with her peers from countries all over the world, Crystal traveled from one end of the earth to the other in an effort to gain a new and deeper respect for the environment in which we live.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Crystal Domenech, and join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize her extraordinary work.

#### ON THE LIFE OF RADIO PERSONALITY EDDIE GALLAHER

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 23, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last November Washington, DC lost one of its trademark voices. Eddie Gallaher, who entertained an entire generation of Washingtonians, passed away on November 26, 2003.

Mr. Gallaher was a radio performer who made his mark on the city during some of our century's most turbulent times. His decades-long career began in 1946 and didn't end until 3 years ago, when Mr. Gallaher was a spry 85. And though he was modest about his popularity, Mr. Gallaher was the man the biggest stars of the day always sat down to chat with when they came to visit the Nation's Capital.

Mr. Gallaher began his radio career at WTOP in Washington in 1946 as the host of the "Magical Moondial" show. In 1947, Mr. Gallaher began his "Sundial" morning program. As radio changed with the times and WTOP switched to an all-news format, Mr. Gallaher moved to WASH-FM and later on, WWDC-AM.

Mr. Speaker, in between spinning popular American standards and providing news updates and color commentary, Mr. Gallaher attracted listeners with his wit and homespun stories of life in Washington. His smooth voice was legendary as was his generous and affable nature. His reputation earned the attention of advertisers, who recruited his name for their on-air promotions.

Mr. Gallaher had a skillful knack for weaving in amusing anecdotes about the entertainment and political worlds that gave his audience a unique insider's perspective. Yet he enjoyed and valued the community feeling of the Washington area, and encouraged civic participation from his listeners. Mr. Gallaher's devotion to his fans was mirrored in his devotion to Fran Sisk, his partner for close to 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, it was a pleasure for many of us—public officials and private citizens alike—to know Mr. Gallaher. Our Nation's Capital and the radio industry has truly lost a grand, old star.